

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Susan P. Guma, Chair
Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee
Phone: (914) 337-6007
Email: susanpguma@gmail.com
Website: www.faircampaignpractices.org



FINDING IN THE COMPLAINT OF ROBERT J. OUTHOUSE AGAINST CATHERINE BORGIA, IN THE RACE FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 9

Tarrytown, NY (October 5, 2019) - The Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee met on October 2, 2019 to hear the complaint of Republican candidate Robert J. Outhouse against incumbent Democratic candidate Catherine Borgia, in the race for Westchester County Legislator District 9. Mr. Outhouse was represented by Joseph Marchese. Ms. Borgia was represented by TJ Rogers.

COMPLAINT: Robert Outhouse complains that Catherine Borgia defamed his character and incited "fear mongering" in her speech at the July 10th Indivisible Westchester Forum, which was recorded and published as a YouTube video titled *BOL Forum 7/10/19*. In the video Ms. Borgia makes reference to Mr. Outhouse and the contents of a defamatory mailer she said was sent out against her.

FINDING: UNFAIR

Contrary to candidate Borgia's statements, there was no proof that any such mailer ever existed or was ever sent. Ms. Borgia's comments are in violation of one of the Committee's principles: "The Candidate will neither engage in nor be involved with false or misleading attacks upon the character of an opponent...."

Committee Members: Susan P. Guma, [Chair], Jennifer Mebes Flagg [Coordinator], Elizabeth Bermel, Gisele Castro, Miriam Cohen, Victor J. Goldberg, LaRuth Gray, Kyle-Beth Hilfer, Lee Kinnally, Robert C. Kirkwood, Peter Larr, Carole Princer Levy, Don Marra, Paul Bennett Marrow, Joy Rosenzweig, Susan Schwarz, John Stern, Evelyn M. Stock
Party representatives (ex officio): Republican Party, Democratic Party, Conservative Party, Working Families Party, Independence Party, Green Party

The purpose of the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee is to help set an acceptable standard for political discussion by offering a forum for identifying unfair campaign practices and promoting a climate in which candidates conduct honest and fair campaigns. The Committee encourages candidates to conduct campaigns openly and fairly, to focus on issues and qualifications, to refrain from dishonest and defamatory attacks, and to avoid the use of campaign materials that distort the facts.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FAIR CAMPAIGN
PRACTICES COMMITTEE

The Committee accepts written complaints from candidates about alleged unfair campaign practices. The Committee may then hold hearings to determine whether the action complained about is indeed unfair or whether it falls within acceptable political discourse. Among other things that the Committee will consider to be an unfair campaign practice is a misstatement of a material fact or any communication that misleads the public.

The Committee has no power to compel anyone or any group to stop doing what it has found to be unfair, nor does it have the authority or power to enforce election or other laws.

If the Committee acts on a complaint, it will release its findings to inform the public. The Committee may choose not to consider a complaint; in that case, a hearing is not held and the parties to the complaint are notified.

Statement of Principles of the Committee, as stated in its Manual, is available at www.faircampaignpractices.org. The Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee believes that candidates should conduct their campaigns in accordance with the following principles:

- The Candidate will conduct a campaign for public office openly and fairly, focusing on issues and qualifications.
- The Candidate will not use or condone any campaign material or advertisement that misstates, misrepresents or distorts material fact or any communication that misleads the public.
- The Candidate will neither engage in nor be involved with false or misleading attacks upon the character of an opponent, nor in invasions of privacy unrelated to fitness for office.
- The Candidate will not participate in nor condone any appeal to prejudice.
- The Candidate will clearly identify by name the funding source of all advertisements and campaign literature published and distributed.
- The Candidate will not abuse the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee process in order to obtain political advantage. This includes, but is not limited to, announcing that he/she has filed a complaint, or quoting the Committee's Findings unless the individual Finding cited is quoted in its entirety.

The Candidate will publicly repudiate materials or actions made on behalf of their candidacy that violate this Statement of Principles.